



UTAH STATE MEDICAID DUR COMMITTEE

THE AMBER SHEET



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SEASONAL INJECTIONS :

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV): Synagis® is covered with two codes:

Y7320 , 100mg -pays \$1119.22.

Y7321, 50mg -pays \$591.80

These codes pay only to the prescriber. Clients can get one injection per month up to five treatments.

Pneumonia: Prevnar®, the pediatric pneumococcal vaccine is covered by Y9095 which pays \$58.75. The adult pneumococcal vaccine is CPT code 90732 which pays \$9.20.

Influenza: The CPT code for influenza is 90724 which pays \$6.32.

Note! Medicaid clients belonging to an HMO would have coverage and payment for these CPT & Y- code injections determined by their the HMO. *****

CORRECTION!!! The last Amber Sheet contained an error in the article on prenatal vitamins. The line that reads: *"If the provider dispenses a one hundred days supply in October 2000 and the client delivers in November, it is an appropriate dispensing"* should have "appropriate" replaced with "inappropriate". Prenatal vitamins are only covered during the pregnancy!!! Remember to write the women's due date on the prescription and do not dispense past that due date. This practice will protect providers if audited.

LOTROX WITHDRAWN FROM US MARKET

At the request of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Glaxo Wellcome announced that it will voluntarily withdraw alosetron hcl (Lotronex®), a prescription medication for the treatment of women with diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome. Medicaid has withdrawn coverage of Lotronex. *****

FYI: Acetaminophen liquid solution or elixir is a Medicaid covered product. Tylenol elixir is also covered. Among the generic approved products are those by Zenith, Moore, Geneva, Roxanne and UDL. *****

PPA BAN LEAVES A PEDIATRIC VOID

FDA's ban on phenylpropanolamine (PPA) leaves a real void in pediatric cough and cold remedies. The ban caused the loss of many, but not all, of the popular Triaminic line as well over 50% of other formulations. Little is left. There are still some triaminic formulations without PPA on the market. Medicaid still covers the legend Phenergan line and has added the OTC products:

Pediacare Cough-Cold, Pedia Relief Cough & Cold, etc., that have the following formula: Dextromethorphan 5mg/pseudoephedrine 15mg/chlorpheniramine 1mg. NDCs known to be open are: PEDIATRIC COUGH/COLD FORMULA , NDC 00182615537; COUGH & COLD, NDC 12810056061; PEDIA RELIEF COUGH & COLD, NDC 00904505020; PEDIACARE, NDC 00009771301.

Benadryl Allergy Decongestant has been added to coverage and contains diphenhydramine 12.5mg/pseudoephedrine 30mg per 5cc and uses saccharin and sorbitol as sweetner. No preservative is listed.

Pedia Relief Decongestant Drops (NDC 24385000905, 37205000105, 49348020029) are covered and contain pseudoephedrine HCL 9.4mg/ml.

Drixoral Syrup has been added. The formula is: pseudoephedrine 30mg/brompheniramine 2mg per 5cc in sorbitol and sugar.

Note that these formulations are covered only so long as the manufacturer participates in the HCFA rebate agreement.

LOVENOX & FRAGMIN BILLED THE SAME. HCFA has mandated that pharmacists bill Fragmin the same as Lovenox. Syringes or amps of various strengths are billed as 1 unit per syringe. This is in violation of the Feds new HIPAA regulations, but HCFA and HIPAA will have to work that out. Maybe HCFA will get HIP for HIPAA.

PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS PLACED ON PRIOR APPROVAL AFTER FIRST 60 DAYS!!! The proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) have been placed on prior approval effective January 1, 2001. There are four PPIs on the market: Prilosec, Prevacid, Aciphex and Protonex. Physicians are allowed to prescribe two months of PPI therapy without a prior authorization for up to twice daily dosing, for acute GERD symptoms and/or bleeding peptic ulcer disease.

Of note, this kind of therapeutic regimen would allow some patients to be diagnosed with GERD without requiring upper endoscopy (i.e., the so called “omeprazole test”). After eight weeks of therapy, long-term maintenance therapy for GERD, for any PPI would require written prior authorization by the physician. This prior authorization could require at least one of the following:

- a. Upper endoscopy or 24 hour pH study to objectively diagnose reflux esophagitis, or
- b. Failure of “step down therapy” after 8 weeks of acute therapy (i.e., stepping down to H2 receptor antagonist therapy on a once or twice daily basis) to see if the patient’s symptoms are maintained in remission, or
- c. Documentation of Barrett’s esophagitis and/or distal esophageal peptic stricture.

Maintenance therapy is limited to one tablet/capsule qd

Surgical intervention (i.e., Nissen fundoplication, etc.) could be at least discussed.

HOME IV PHARMACISTS!! The AWP listing compiled by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has 437 NDCs listed on it with new or actual average wholesale prices as developed by the DOJ. These 437 NDCs will be MAC'ed along with any other NDCs for the same drug, same strength, same packaging. Other brands both generic and brand-name will have the same MAC price associated with them. The list of 437 NDCs along with the “new” AWP can be found on the DUR Board’s website at: <http://hlunix.ex.state.ut.us/medicaid/dur> under current issues. *****

DIALYSIS MEDICATIONS: Any injectable drug that is part of, and given at the same time as the dialysis treatment, is covered by the dialysis fee. Do not bill the drug separately.

MORE THAN YOU EVER WANTED FROM HCFA!!!

HCFA Medicaid Drug Information posted on website at:
www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/drugs/druginfo.htm

Drug Rebate Program Files
Drug & Drug Rebate Policy
Drug Federal Upper Limit Information
Drug Utilization Review Program

PROGRAM INTEGRITY UNIT - NEW KID IN TOWN!!! Medicaid has formed a new auditing team called the Program Integrity Unit (PIU). The primary task of this unit is to insure that providers are following policy and billing correctly. Post payment review is the primary method used to determine if policy is being followed.

When a provider is determined to be out of compliance and an overpayment has resulted, then the PIU will contact the provider and seek correction and provide educational opportunities to prevent future errors. Significant over payments may be taken back.

TIS THE SEASON!!! This is the season for clients to be careless with prescriptions. Many clients are misplacing or losing their medications. Medicaid does not replace lost or 'stolen' prescriptions unless the patient is placed in a life-threatening position without their medication. Warn clients to be careful with their prescriptions.

??HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY??